



CELEBRATING
OUR CENTENARY



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Hall of Fame Inductees

Engineering Heritage Queensland

John Ernest KINDLER

FIEAust

1906 - 1968

INDUCTED IN 2014

John was born in 1906 at Nuriootpa, South Australia, and graduated with a BE and ME from the University of Adelaide. In 1928 he joined Bradfield's Sydney Harbour Bridge branch of the NSW Dept of Public Works, and the following year he transferred to the Main Roads section of the Department of Transport.

In 1933 The Queensland Bureau of Industry established a board to construct the Story Bridge across the Brisbane River at Kangaroo Point. John was employed from 1934 as an assistant to the project's supervising engineer James Holt.

Seconded to the Allied Works Council in 1942, John built coastal defences and marine facilities. In 1946 John was made principal designing engineer and then deputy to Holt as he rose in the Department.

The COG Department gained a high reputation for the quality of its work and John ensured he kept himself informed of overseas developments and was open to new ideas, provided that they passed his rigorous examination.

He had the knowledge, confidence and courage to criticise—publicly, if necessary—accepted practices, and to pioneer new techniques in

design and construction. In 1954 John was promoted to chief engineer.

He was involved in the Tully Falls and Barron River hydro-electric schemes and in supplying water to the Collinsville power-station, in the development of university campuses at St Lucia and Townsville, and in the design and construction of the township of Weipa.

Some 20 major bridges were designed under his supervision, and he took particular care to integrate design with construction.

Engineers Australia published six of his papers and awarded him the Warren Memorial Prize with co-author Hansen in 1957. He received the RW (Sir Robert) Chapman medal in 1958.

He was Chair (1955) of Engineers Australia's Brisbane Division, and was active in founding (1947) the APEMA, and in preparing the Professional Engineers' case (1958-61) before the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

As convener of the civil engineering sub-committee of the Queensland government's advisory committee on engineering education (formed 1964), he helped to found (1965) the QIT, later Queensland University of Technology.